Most polluted Yamuna

2222. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Yamuna is among the most polluted rivers of the world and Delhi contributes 57 per cent of the pollution by way of garbage, effluents, untreated sewage, animal carcasses and other waste;

(b) whether it is a fact that Yamuna remains relatively static for nine months in a year so, toxins remain in water and soil for long periods thus polluting the water table of surrounding areas;

(c) whether it is a fact that Rs. 18,000 crore were allotted under the Yamuna Action Plan; and

(d) if so, the details of the manner in which this amount was spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the stretch of river Yamuna between Wazirabad and Okhla in Delhi is among the most polluted stretches of major rivers across the country. It has been reported that the volume of wastewater generated from Delhi acconts for about 79 per cent of the total wastewater generated from major towns located along the banks of river Yamna.

Due to large scale extraction of water from the river upstream of Wazirabad barrage at Delhi for various uses, the flow of river in Delhi stretch mainly comprises of the wastewater flow from the surrounding areas during the non-monsoon period. The groundwater quality monitored by CPCB at the selected locations of Delhi area indicates that at Prahladpur, the concentration of toxic metals exceeds the drinking water quality standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) during the pre-monsoon period. However, the groundwater quality improves in the post monsoon period due to recharge.

(c) and (d) Government of India has launched Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for the abatement of pollution in river Yamuna with the assistance of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in a phased manner. YAP, Phase-I was launched in April, 1993, and declared closed in February, 2003. The second phase of YAP was commenced in December, 2004. The total approved cost of both the phases of Yamuna Action Plan is Rs. 1339 crores and expenditure incurred so far under both the phases is 719.76 crores. In addition to the YAP, the Government of NCT of Delhi has also taken up large scale pollution abatement works for river Yamuna from its own resources. A total of 269 schemes have been implemented in 21 towns of the three States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and 753.25 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created so far under both the phases of YAP. The works completed under YAP include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/ improved wood crematoria and River Front Development.

National action plan on mitigating climate change

2223. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India's national action plan on mitigation of climate change which was to be ready by January, 2008 is ready;

(b) if so, the salient features of the national action plan;

(c) the efforts of his Ministry to shift industries to low-carbon emission economies;

(d) whether involvement of private companies is depicted in the plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a), (b), (d) and (e) In the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Cange held in July 2007, *inter-alia* it was decided that a National Action Plan on climate change will be prepared. This Report is under preparation.

(c) Although India as a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments, however, a sustainable development path is being followed in India by a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change;

i. ensuring energy conservation and improved energy efficiency in various sectors as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency

ii. promoting use of renewable energy

iii. power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme

iv. use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport

v. fuel switching to cleaner energy

vi. afforestation and conservation of forests

vii. promotion of clean coal technologies

viii. reduction of gas flaring

ix. encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems

x. environmental quality management for all sectors.

Funds for cleaning of river Yamuna

2224. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial allocations made and spent for saving the river Yamuna from pollution and environmental degradation so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that though crores of rupees have been spent, no significant measure has been put in place that is effective enough to check pollution of the river;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up an Inquiry Commission to inquire into large scale misuse and diversion of the funds released for cleaning of Yamuna; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Government of India has luanched Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for the abatement of pollution in river Yamuna with the assistance of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in a phased manner. YAP, Phase-I was launched in